

titratable acidity determined a maximum fruit sweetness of 0.49 percent, also obtained with 700 g K₂O/tree (data not shown). Differences in fruit firmness could not be detected amongst the various K application rates.

Current K recommendations for peach range from 500 to 600 g K₂O/tree. On the basis of this research it can be concluded that peach orchards would benefit from minimum K₂O rates of 600 g/tree. Fruit yields were highest at the 600 g K₂O/tree application rate. There was also a significant improvement in titratable acidity (sweetness) in the second year with 700 g K₂O/tree. Countrywide adoption of this science-based recommendation will lead to significant improvement in fruit production and quality, while helping India meet its large nutritional demands. **BCI**

Table 1. Effect of K fertilizer on peach yield and weight.

Treatment g K ₂ O/tree	Fruit yield, kg/tree			Fruit weight, g/fruit		
	Year 1	Year 2	Mean	Year 1	Year 2	Mean
300	25.6	20.9	23.3	86.8	87.6	87.2
400	26.9	22.5	24.7	89.6	90.7	90.2
500	27.6	23.2	25.4	93.2	93.9	93.6
600	29.9	27.0	28.5	96.0	97.5	96.8
700	31.2	28.3	29.8	99.0	102.4	100.7
800	26.0	23.2	24.6	90.0	91.2	90.6
900	25.6	22.7	24.2	88.8	88.2	88.5
C.D. (5%)	1.6	1.9	—	5.8	3.7	—

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Dr. Chen Fang Joins PPI/PPIC Staff as Deputy Director, Central China

Dr. Chen Fang has joined the staff of PPI/PPIC in the new position of Deputy Director, Central China. He will work from a newly established office associated with the Hubei Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Wuhan, effective April 1998.

Dr. Chen was born in Guangdong province, studied Soil Science and Fertilization in Guangxi Agricultural College, and received a B.Sc. degree in 1982. He completed his Ph.D. degree in Plant Nutrition and Fertilization from Huazhong Agricultural University in 1997.

Recently, Dr. Chen has been involved in the Management Department of Scientific and Technical Projects, Hubei Academy of Agricultural Sciences. From 1987 to 1996, he had responsibility for numerous cooperative research and demonstration projects on balanced fertilization. During this time, potassium (K) need and improved nutrient application techniques were identified for numerous crops.

In his new responsibility, Dr. Chen will direct programs in agronomic research and education related to market development for potash and phosphate. **BCI**

